



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Office of the Administrator
December 2, 2005

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Refer to: HEPI-20

Len A. Sanderson, P.E.
State Highway Administrator
North Carolina Department
of Transportation
Raleigh, NC 27699-1536

Through: John Sullivan
Division Administrator
Raleigh, NC

Dear Mr. Sanderson:

Len,

Thank you for your November 3, 2005, letter to Division Administrator John F. Sullivan requesting the 9.86-mile western segment of the Charlotte Outer Loop from I-85 south to I-485/I-77 and the 21.01-mile eastern segment from I-485/U.S. 74 north to I-85 be added to the Interstate System under the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 103(c)(4)(A).

The Charlotte Outer Loop is on the National Highway System. The segments were designated future parts of the Interstate System under former 23 U.S.C. 139(b) on July 16, 1996, for the western segment and on February 26, 1991, for the eastern. The provisions of former 23 U.S.C. 139 have been incorporated in revised 23 U.S.C. 103(c)(4).

You note that the segments were opened to traffic in 2003 and 2004 and, with the existing southern segment, greatly ease the congestion of both I-77 and I-85 through the Charlotte area. Our field offices confirmed on November 14, 2005, that the segments have been completed to Interstate standards in accordance with our Section 139(b) agreement. I, therefore, find that the segments satisfy the requirements of Section 103(c)(4)(A) and designate them as parts of the Interstate System.

We hereby formally concur in the numbering of the route as I-485. By copy of this letter, we are notifying the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials which approved this numbering for the Charlotte Outer Loop on June 8, 1988, and October 5, 1996.

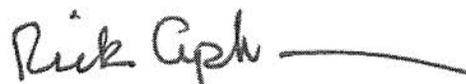
The route description for the 45.73-mile I-485 in North Carolina, with the 9.86-mile and 21.01-mile additions, reads as follows:

I-485 From I-85 west of Charlotte counterclockwise to I-85 east of Charlotte.



Under 23 U.S.C. 119(a)(1)(B), these segments become eligible for Interstate Maintenance (IM) funds, and, under 23 U.S.C. 104(b)(4), their lane miles and vehicle miles traveled will become eligible for inclusion in the IM funds apportionment formulas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Capka" followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

J. Richard Capka
Acting Administrator

cc: Marty Vitale
AASHTO



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

November 3, 2005

Mr. John F. Sullivan, III, P.E.
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 410
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Subject: Addition to the Interstate System, I-485, Charlotte Outer Loop

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

As you know the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved the Charlotte Outer Loop as a future Interstate. Also, route number I-485 has been approved for this loop by both the FHWA and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

A portion of the eastern section, from I-77 counterclockwise to US 74, met the requirements of Section 103(c)(4)(A) and was designated as a part of the Interstate System effective on December 31, 1998.

The western section, from I-85 west of Charlotte and moving counterclockwise to I-77, was built to Interstate standards and opened to traffic in 2004. The eastern section from US 74 and moving counterclockwise to I-85 was also built to Interstate standards and opened to traffic in 2003. Together these sections comprise a 45.73-mile facility extending counterclockwise from I-85 west of Charlotte to the present I-485 and on to I-85 north of Charlotte. This constitutes an Interstate designed and constructed facility that is connected, at each end, to a National Highway System route. (See attached map)

We request that these sections, the western 9.86-mile and eastern 21.01-mile, both be designated as additions to the Interstate System under Title 23 USC 103(c)(4)(A). We ask that this action be approved to be effective in the calendar year 2005 so we may include this Interstate mileage in our Highway Performance Monitoring System annual report for 2005 data.

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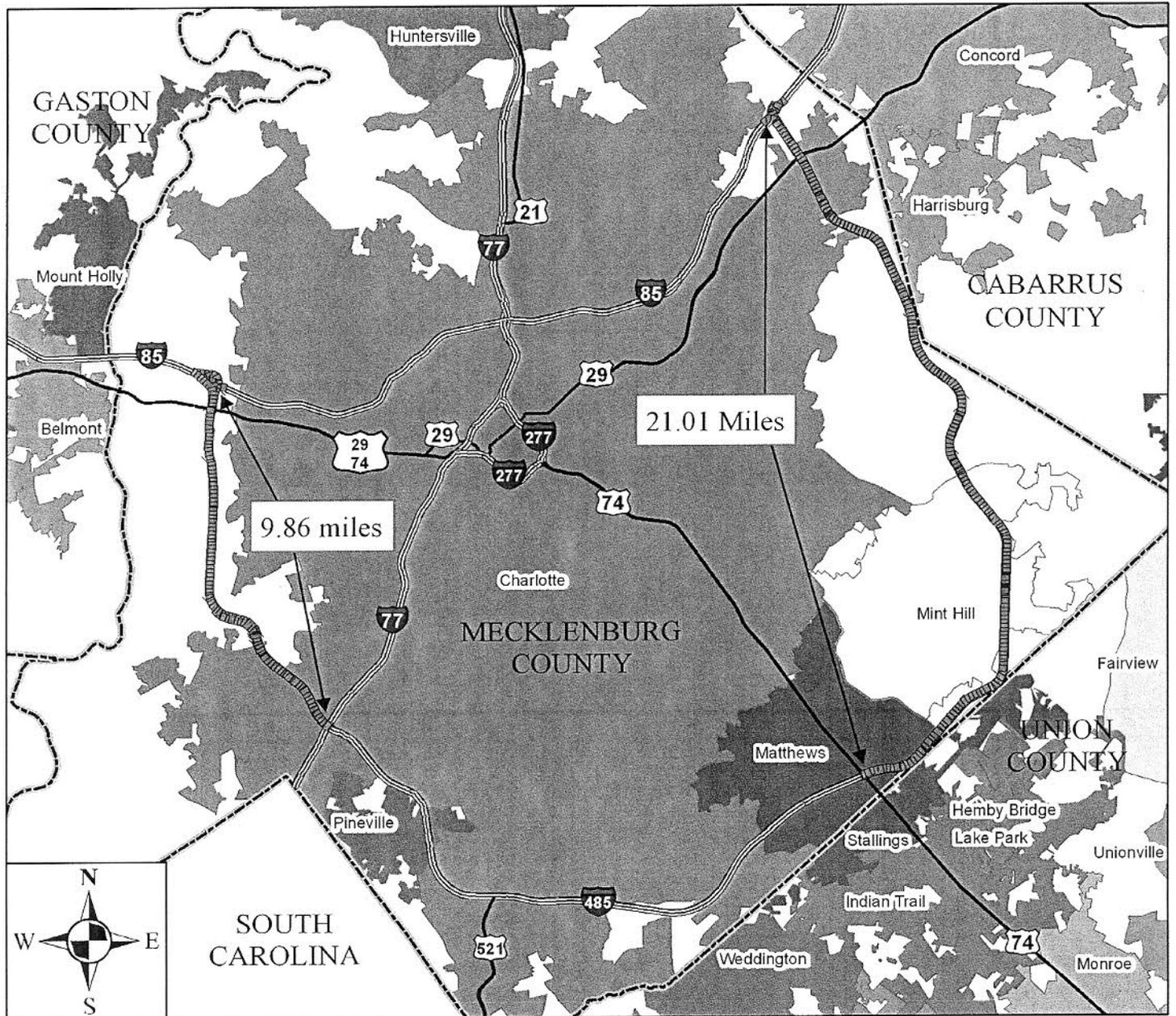
LOCATION:
TRANSPORTATION BUILDING
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET
RALEIGH NC

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Charlotte Outer Loop

Request Interstate Designation Under

23 USC 103(c)(4)(A)



Legend

-  Requested I-485 Designation
-  Interstate Route
-  US Route
-  County Boundary